

**Island County Board of Health
Regular Meeting - Monday, July 20, 2009
Minutes**

Members Present: Commissioners: John Dean, Helen Price Johnson and Angie Homola; Jim Slowik, Mayor of Oak Harbor; Anne Tarrant, Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner; Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board; and, Captain James Thralls, MSC, U.S. Navy, Ex-Officio Member.

Members Absent: No members were absent.

Call to Order: The Chair, Jim Slowik, called this Regular Meeting of the Island County Board of Health to order at 1:15 p.m.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Price Johnson called for the approval of the minutes for the June 15, 2009 Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Homola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation: Environmental Health Summer Programs

Keith Higman, Health Services Director, opened the presentation by advising the Board the summer season is an especially active time for the Environmental Health programs that monitor the water quality at public swimming beaches and at recreational shellfish areas. Keith introduced Kathleen Parvin, Environmental Health Specialist who works in these programs. Kathleen began by acknowledging the help of Cassie Williams, a college student interning with the Health Department in Environmental Health this summer, in preparing today's presentation. Kathleen described the mission of the swim beach water quality program and noted that swimming beaches currently monitored by the Health Department are Deer Lake, Goss Lake, Lone Lake, Holmes Harbor (marine), Penn Cove (marine), Oak Harbor City Beach (marine), Cranberry Lake, and Country Club Lagoon on Camano Island. The sampling program runs from May through August. Kathleen explained the different kinds of algae blooms and other contaminants that could influence a beach's suitability for swimming.

Kathleen went on to talk about the Health Department's Recreational Shellfish Program. She noted that shellfish must have clean water to be safely eaten and described the variety of water quality issues that affect Island County beaches. She described the harvesters as commercial, tribal and recreational and went on to describe the toxins and events that might cause the closure of harvesting areas.

Contracts:

Keith Higman presented the following contracts for consideration:

1. Opportunity Council – Early Learning Program
Contract No. HD-09-09
Contract Amount: \$ 7,992
2. Department of Health – Consolidated Contract
Contract No. C14949, Amendment No. 16
Contract Amount: \$ 2,498,790
Amendment Amount: \$ 212,989
3. DSHS – Early Intervention Program (EIP)
Contract No. 0963-67119
Contract Amount: \$ 16,667
4. DSHS – Early Family Support Services
Contract No. 0963-68651
Contract Amount: \$ 10,374
5. DSHS – Foster Care Public Health Nurse Services
Contract No. 0963-68665
Contract Amount: \$ 10,250

6. WSU College of Nursing – Student Intern Program
Contract No. 6408, Amendment No. 1
Contract Amount: \$ -0-
Amendment Amount: \$ -0-
7. WA State Department of Ecology – On-Site Financial
Assistance Program
Contract No. L0600020, Amendment No. 1
Contract Amount: \$ 300,000
Amendment Amount: \$ -0-

Commissioner Dean moved for approval of the group of contracts as presented. Commissioner Homola seconded and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Health Department Report: Keith advised the Board that Dr. Case and Health Department staff are participating in the state wide and national dialog on planning and preparation for the upcoming flu season and the potential impacts on our community in the fall. Four areas of focus are: 1) surveillance; 2) community mitigation; 3) vaccine; and 4) communication. Vaccine for the H1N1 strain is currently in development but that strain could mutate again making it a moving target for vaccine development. The population most impacted by the H1N1 strain is not the typical population, it is children. This may make the priority of vaccine delivery different from the traditional populations. Keith reported that the communicable disease team was investigating a bacterial meningitis case in Island County and that this is a very serious disease.

Public Input or Comments: David Macys, Oak Harbor, commented that this forum discusses Health impact planning and he hopes that emergency planning/preparation is going on beyond the Health Department. Mr. Macys congratulated the Naval Hospital on earning accreditation. Captain Thralls advised that the Joint Commission and Medical IG had just completed their review of the hospital.

Commissioner Dean said that the Commissioners are continuing to receive inquiries on the septic system inspection program. The Board of County Commissioners talked about hosting a public forum and thought it would make more sense for the Board of Health to host the forum since the regulation came through the Board of Health. He acknowledged that public meetings had been held when the Plan and regulation were adopted but with the regulation and fee in force, the public is paying more attention. Now would be a good time to have a public forum to review the history of the Plan and discuss the reasons for the requirements and possibly include a Septic 101 overview. Keith said that Health would be delighted to staff such a forum. Following a discussion by the Board, Keith said that Health staff will schedule a Special Board of Health meeting date in September. Staff will bring a proposed format to the August Board of Health to the August Board of Health meeting for discussion. This would leave time for Board to hear citizen comment and to make input to the State Board of Health which will be reviewing this rule at their October meeting. Keith agreed that he and Kerry Graves would work with Board Members to find a September date for a Special Board of Health. Commissioner Price Johnson pointed out that the Commissioners Hearing Room offered the video link to Camano but that a larger room might be required. A discussion followed on possible meeting locations. Keith reviewed for the Board that he and Kerry Graves would work with Board Members to set at least one Special Meeting date in September and he would work with Health staff on a draft format to present to the Board of Health at the August regular meeting.

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board, the Chair, Jim Slowik, adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m. The next Board of Health will be at Regular Meeting on Monday, August 17, 2009.

Submitted: _____
Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 20th day of July 2009
ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Jim Slowik, Chair